

2024 MISSOURI BUSINESSES BY SIZE

JULY 2025

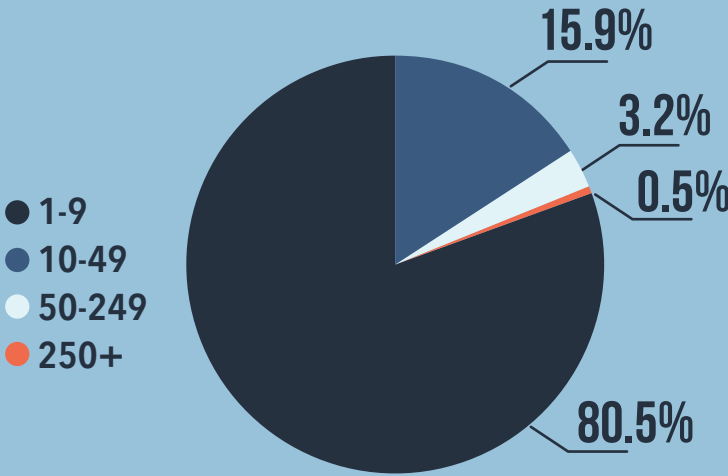
NUMBER OF BUSINESSES BY SIZE

Tracking Missouri businesses by employment size can be used to identify which size of business employs the most people, how Missouri businesses range by the size of employment and average wages, and what is the typical size of businesses by industry.

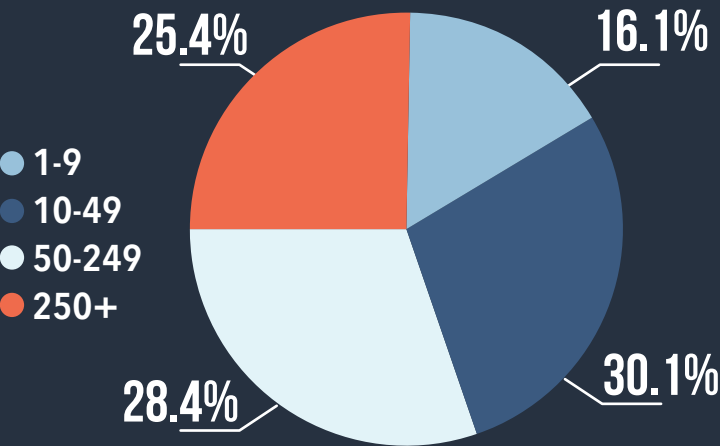
Missouri had **230,554 private sector establishments** in the first quarter of 2024*. As per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, an establishment is defined as an economic unit that produces goods or services, usually at a single physical location, and engages in one or predominantly one activity. A firm is a legal business, either corporate or otherwise, and may consist of several establishments. Small businesses comprised a majority of this total, with **80.5 percent** of Missouri businesses employing fewer than 10 people. Establishments employing 1 to 49 workers made up **96.4 percent** of all businesses in Missouri.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS
1-4	156,644
5-9	28,989
10-19	21,559
20-49	15,016
50-99	4,931
100-249	2,454
250-499	662
500-999	186
1000+	112
TOTAL	230,554

COMBINED PERCENT OF BUSINESSES BY SIZE



EMPLOYMENT PERCENT BY BUSINESS SIZE

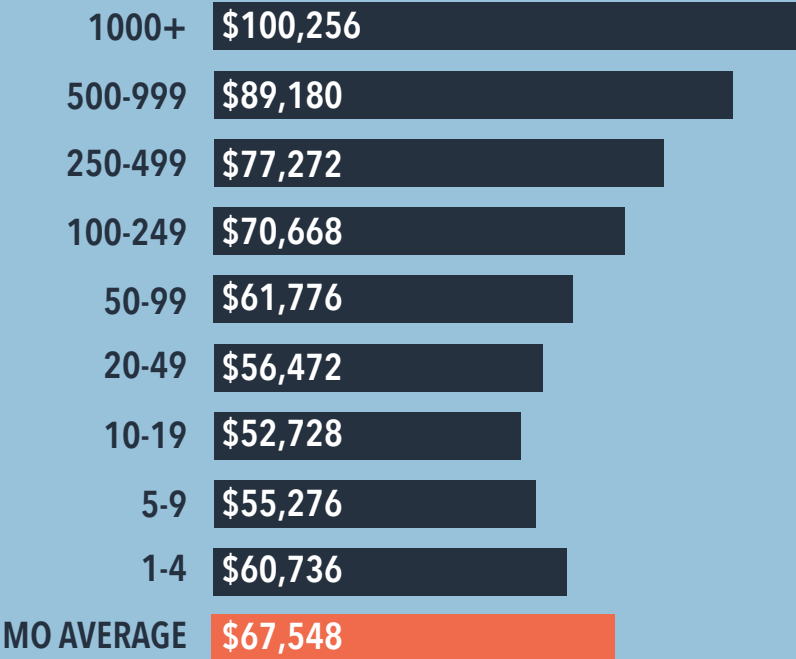


PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYMENT BY BUSINESS SIZE

Small businesses in Missouri employ a significant portion of the private sector workforce. Private sector employees that work for a small business (fewer than 50 employees) comprise **46.2 percent** of the workforce. Medium-sized businesses (50-249 employees) employ **28.4 percent** of the private sector workforce, while large employers (250 or more) employ **25.4 percent**.

WAGES BY BUSINESS SIZE

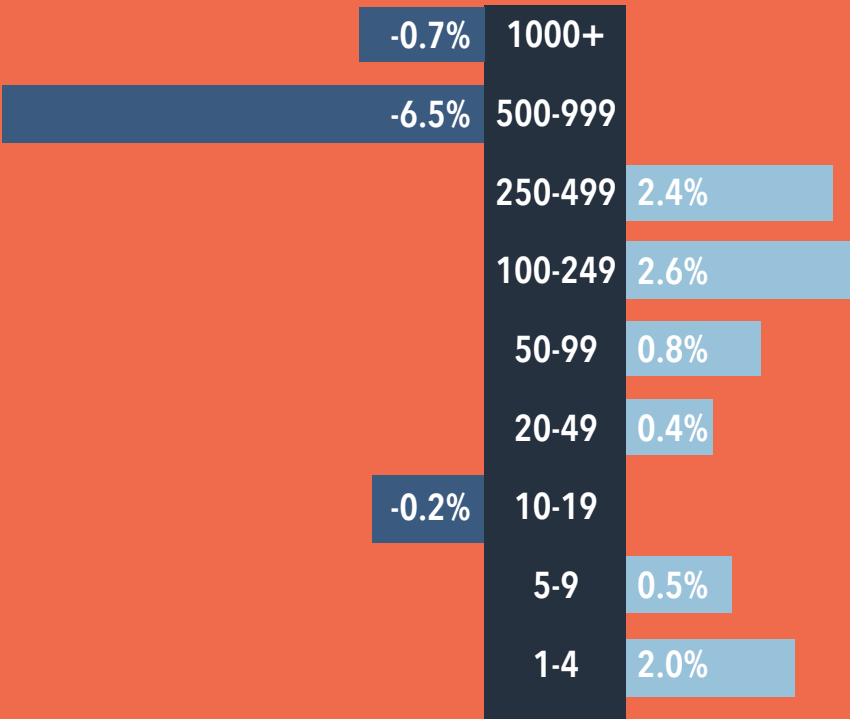
Wages were calculated using first quarter data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average first quarter annual wage in Missouri for 2024, for all private industries regardless of business size, was **\$67,548**. Wages were highest at businesses that employed 1,000 or more people, with average wages equaling **\$100,256**. Establishments that employed 10 to 19 people had the lowest average wage at **\$52,728**.



2024 EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY BUSINESS SIZE

Employment levels were calculated using first quarter data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program. Businesses with 100-249 employees experienced the largest gain with a 2.6 percent increase from 2023 to 2024. Businesses that employed 1,000 or more employees experienced a negative employment change of **0.7 percent**. Businesses that employed 500-999 people had a decline of **6.5 percent**. Overall, Missouri businesses gained **12,752** employees between first quarter 2023 and first quarter 2024.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGE (%) 2023-2024



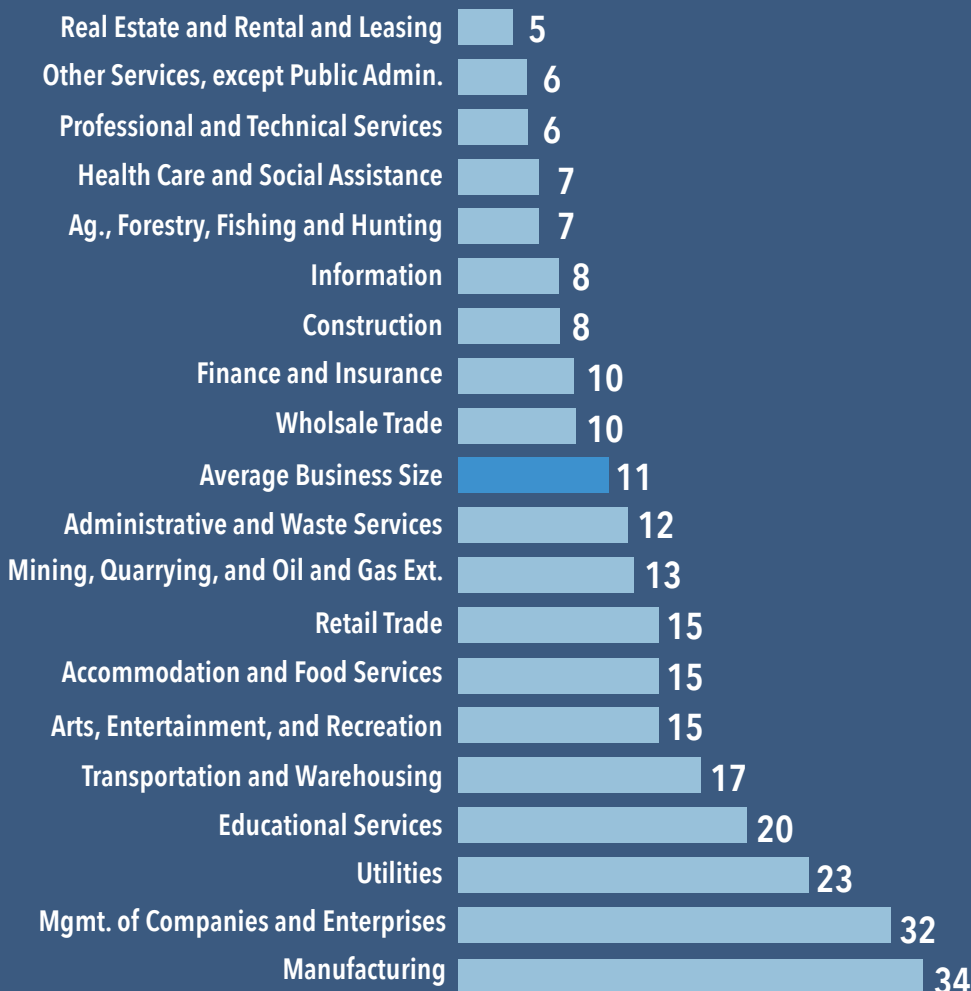
BUSINESS SIZE	EMPLOYMENT CHANGE 23-24
1000+	-1,834
500-999	-8,562
250-499	5,220
100-249	9,001
50-99	2,600
20-49	1,867
10-19	-502
5-9	954
1-4	4,007

TOTAL: 12,752

AVERAGE SIZE OF BUSINESS BY INDUSTRY

The average business size was **11 employees** in the first quarter of 2024. Two industries had an average employment of more than 30: *Manufacturing* with **34 workers** per establishment and *Management of Companies and Enterprises* with **32 workers** per business. *Utilities* and *Educational Services* industries also had higher average employment with **23 and 20 workers** per establishment, respectively. The *Real Estate and Rental and Leasing*; *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; and *Other Services, except Public Administration* had the lowest average employment with **six or fewer workers** per business.

AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT PER ESTABLISHMENT BY INDUSTRY IN 2024



NOTES:

Data Sources: This report uses 2024 first quarter data for Missouri private industries and employees in all establishment sizes from the Quarterly Census Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/cew/>

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) monitors business sizes through unemployment insurance accounts established in the state.

*Even though annual data is available for employment size counts (page one), first quarter is used for data congruency, keeping in view the multi-source availability subjected to only first quarter release at the time of this document. Business data is derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, a cooperative program between the Bureau of Labor Statistics and state labor market information centers. Non-employer businesses, such as sole proprietors, are monitored through a U.S. Census program that uses administrative data, chiefly IRS returns, to develop statistics. Non-employer businesses account for less than 4 percent of all sales but do account for the largest number of businesses. More information is available at:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/surveys-programs.html>

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html>

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